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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
Akihito SHIZUNO, et al. : GROUP ART UNIT: 1772
SERIAL NO.: 09/926,099 :
FILED: AUGUST 31, 2001 : EXAMINER: CHEVALIER
FOR: BULKY SHEET AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated February 6, 2003, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-5 and 9-10, for further prosecution.

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-5 and 9-10, drawn to a bulky sheet; and

Group II: Claims 6-8, drawn to a process for producing a bulky sheet.

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-5 and 9-10, for further prosecution.

Applicants note that the claims of Group II depend directly from the claims of Group I, and as such these groups clearly share a common special technical feature (the bulky sheet of Group I).

Citing PCT Rule 13.1 and 13.2, the Examiner, contends that a lack of unity exists between Groups I-II, because the special technical feature of the present invention -the

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